



PRESS RELEASE

Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona
Environmental Protection Agency

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Contact: Tiffany N. Troidl, WIFA Communications Director: (602) 316-2438
Wendy Chavez, EPA Communications: (415) 947-4306

WIFA and EPA honor Flowing Wells arsenic project

Phoenix, AZ – In a ceremony today, Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) Chairman Steve Owens and Environmental Protection Agency official Alexis Strauss presented an award to the Flowing Wells Irrigation District which used WIFA funding to improve water quality and protect public health in the community.

“The Flowing Wells Irrigation District project is a great examples of successful a water quality project,” said WIFA Chairman Steve Owens, who also serves as Director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. “Flowing Wells utilized WIFA’s low-interest funds to finance projects that improved water quality and protected public health. They are real leaders”

The EPA Awarded the Flowing Wells Irrigation District with the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund “Aquarius” Award for being one of the state’s first communities to move to comply with the new federal arsenic rule. Arsenic occurs naturally in soil and groundwater in Arizona. The district used a \$996,600 drinking water state revolving loan to build an arsenic treatment plant and met the lower arsenic level before the rule went into effect in January 2006.

“Since the inception of the drinking water state revolving fund, borrowers have used revolving loan funds to finance innovative projects that increase wastewater and drinking water infrastructure nationwide,” said Alexis Strauss, the director of the EPA’s Water Division for the Pacific Southwest region. “These projects result in far-reaching environmental benefits, safer drinking water, and improve local economies.”

Arizona’s state revolving fund program provides flexible financing for states to address their most critical wastewater and drinking water infrastructure needs. The EPA Drinking Water Aquarius Award is given to a project that protects public health, complies with the Safe Drinking Water Act, proves no financial threat to the project, and ranks high on a public health benefits priority list.